

2nd Kurt Kispert Memorial in Kaufbeuren 7 October - 9 October 2022

On Thursday 6 October, the three of us left Eindhoven for Kaufbeuren at 8:00 am. A long car journey of about 725 kilometres. This time with one car, so that saved quite a bit on fuel costs. Ruud Martin behind the wheel, Paul Wiselius next to him and your scribe (Hein Veldhuis) in the back seat. Ruud drove all the way there, We went on the A61 and not on the A3, because much more traffic jams were expected there. Here, of course, it was much less allowed to drive unlimited fast. We hardly had any traffic jams, only road works here and there. Around 18:00 we arrived at hotel Am Kamin. On Friday, together with Horst Kern and his wife, we drove to a restaurant with a terrace by a small lake called Elbsee, something like a 20-minute drive. The weather was nice, and we had lunch on the outdoor terrace and a small rapid tournament which Paul won.



Hotel Am Kamin can be easily seen from the main road.

Website: <https://www.hotel-am-kamin.de/de/>

I myself played several rapid chess games of "Fischer Random" (Chess960) with Ruud Martin. With some luck, I managed to win all these games. Nevertheless, we quickly switched to regular chess, as we found it too tiring to keep playing Fischer Random all weekend. Due to the turbulent weekend, we did not keep track of the results. It is not important, it is all about having fun with the rapid games.

Thursday evening and Friday, Paul had some practice games with the Fidelity Chesster Challenger against the Excalibur Igor (same programme as the Excalibur Grandmaster). The Chesster lost both of those while being 50 elo points higher on the wiki, so those were already bad omens. Saturday Paul lost the 1st game, and the 2nd against the Mephisto Super Mondial he lost a piece quite quickly, but still managed to get a draw because the Super Mondial underestimated a free pawn. Then 3 more plus draws, and in the last round was outplayed by the Conchess.

After some deliberation, Ruud was allowed to compete with the Almeria engine on the new Mephisto Phoenix. But it proved to be no match for the violence of the opponents. But still 2 wins out of 7.

The One Man Show of Marcus Kästner...

Marcus took center stage this tournament by participating with no less than 4 chess computers, partly also to make the number of computers even. At the start he was still puzzling over the best table setup. I saw how he was fiddling with the tables and I gave him the suggestion of setting up the tables in a narrow U-shape. It turned out to be a hit and he was very happy with it. One chess computer, Marcus' Fidelity V11 was operated by Konrad, Ralf Glomb's son, the other three he operated all by himself, which caused obvious delays during the rounds of play. Ruud was one of the biggest victims of this, as Marcus so neglected one of the three games in the 2nd round that after an hour he had only made 40 moves (2 of his own computers against each other), with a completely even middle game still on the board. Headstrong, he refused to let that chess game just be arbitrated to a draw, so it took at least another half hour before it actually became a draw. Ruud was tired of waiting and then left to have a business meeting with Millennium's Thomas Karkosch. Well, if one participant keeps the other waiting, so can it be the other way around!



On Saturday afternoon, the brand new Mephisto Phoenix chess computer was presented by Millennium's CEO Thomas Karkosch.

Later they played the game anyway. Another annoyance was that the CT800 Prototyp gave up after a few games, and then Marcus decided, without any consultation with the tournament leader, to play the remaining round with the CT800 program on his PDA! There again Ruud was one of the victims. For he lost that chess game without a chance, and could see that in no time the program was already counting on 16 ply deep, while his Almeria reached maybe 8 or 9 ply. At the tournament closing, where everyone got to talk a little about their tournament experience, Marcus started talking about the Wiki-elo-list, saying that his own list was much better. Yes, when you proclaim these kinds of controversial claims you probably cross a line. Sometimes you have to be critical of certain events to avoid repeating them in the next tournament. In short, enough topics to agree for a next time with Alwin Gruber that one may participate preferably with one, but at most with 2 chess computers? And perhaps also include in the rules that if a computer breaks down (and cannot be repaired within 10 minutes) that it may be replaced, with only a real chess computer!



After more than a year of development, the Mephisto Phoenix finally arrives on the commercial market. Some proud team members sit together here to chat some more. From left to right: Thomas Karkosch (Millennium), Ruud Martin (Phoenix Chess Systems), Horst Kern (as tester) with his wife and Markus Pillen (also as tester).

On Sunday morning, Paul and Ruud had used the beamer to watch Formula 1 (Max world champion!). So for that, they did have to get up at 6:15 am, and took 't breakfast to the playing room. Unfortunately, the rain caused many delays and accidents, so the finish could only be seen during the last round of play. So that was no longer possible via the beamer, but Paul, Ruud and I had still watched the good ending on his laptop. On the way back to Eindhoven, Paul was allowed to drive the last 200 kilometres, as Ruud was a bit tired. Paul had "limited" himself to speeds of 170-180 km/hour, as it was getting dark by then. So far a small report of this remarkable tournament. I wish you further viewing pleasure with this photo report.

Kurt Kispert Memorial 2022 - Gruppe A (U2400)

Platz	Name	Verein	Pkte.	SB	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	King Elt 30 MHz KB2022	Markus P.	6.0	17.00	x	0'	1'	1'	1'	1	1	1
2	Fid. V11 68060 72 MHz	Konrad	5.0	17.25	1	x	0.5'	1'	0'	0.5	1	1'
3	CT 800 Prototyp	Marcus K.	4.0	11.25	0	0.5	x	0.5'	0.5	1	0.5'	1'
4	Tasc R30 V2.5 30 MHz	Ralf	3.5	9.00	0	0	0.5	x	1	0'	1'	1'
5	Reflection II Diablo	Marcus K.	2.5	9.50	0	1	0.5'	0'	x	1'	0'	0
6	Genius London'30 50MHz	Marcus K.	2.5	8.50	0'	0.5'	0'	1	0	x	1	0
7	CT 800 Original	Rasmus	2.5	6.50	0'	0'	0.5	0	1	0'	x	1
8	Meph.Phoen.Almeria 512	Ruud	2.0	5.00	0'	0	0	0	1'	1'	0'	x

Kurt Kispert Memorial 2022 - Gruppe B (U1900)

Platz	Name	Verein	ELO/DWZ	Pkte.	SB	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Constellation Forte B	Dirk	1883	5.0	13.25	x	1'	0.5	1	0.5'	1	1'
2	Fidelity Prestige 4 MHz	Gerhard	1877	4.0	9.50	0	x	1	0.5'	0.5'	1	1'
3	Conchess S5 Glasgow L16	Heiko	1899	3.5	9.50	0.5'	0'	x	1	1'	1	0
4	Meph. Super Mondial B	Thomas/Alwin	1880	3.0	6.50	0'	0.5	0'	x	0.5	1'	1
5	Fid.Chesster Challenger	Paul	1889	2.0	6.75	0.5	0.5	0	0.5'	x	0'	0.5'
6	SciSys Turbo King II	Wolfgang	1887	2.0	3.50	0'	0'	0'	0	1	x	1
7	Mephisto Rebell 5.0	Gernot	1869	1.5	4.50	0	0	1'	0'	0.5	0'	x

The final score according to the statement of tournament leader Paul Wiselius.



The Tasc R30 has been on the market since 1993 and we regularly see this chess computer in Kaufbeuren or Klingenberg.



Ruud Martin here battling with Ralf-Henning Glomb's Tasc R30.



Millennium The King Element at 30 MHz. managed to win the tournament in the A-group. A very nice victory for operator Markus Pillen.



Relax (with 2 hands above your head) and play chess. Konrad, the son of Ralf-Henning Glomb clearly had a lot of fun operating the Fidelity V11 72 MHz.



Left foreground: Marcus Kästner with his Mephisto TM Genius London 50 MHz. against Ruud Martin's Almeria emulation programme on a prototype of the Mephisto Phoenix. Horst Kern looks on with interest.



Yes, Marcus Kästner (centre) operated no less than 3 chess computers at the same time! On the left, he has a Mephisto Modular with a CT800 prototype. Then a Mephisto Munich with a Reflection II module with Diablo emulation, and finally a Mephisto TM Genius London 50 MHz. Not everyone was happy with that, but in the photo, everything is going again in good harmony and with a lot of fun!



Ruud had been asked to participate in the tournament at the last minute. In the end, he entered with a test model of the Mephisto Phoenix with the Almeria emulation programme. A stronger programme by Richard Lang was not allowed. Probably Alwin Gruber was a bit scared of this new machine? A miserable 2 points was the end result. In my belief, a Portorose emulation would have been a much better candidate.



Ralf-Henning Glomb and Markus Pillen have a lot of fun among themselves.



Marcus Kästner's Mephisto TM Genius London 50 MHz. is a beautiful reproduction and redesigning of the original Mephisto Tournament Machine!



In army uniform is Rasmus Althoff with his original CT800. Here he plays against the Reflection II Novag Diablo of the good-humoured Marcus Kästner.



**Ruud Martin and Rasmus Althoff are battling each other here.
Unfortunately, Ruud drew the shorter straw.**



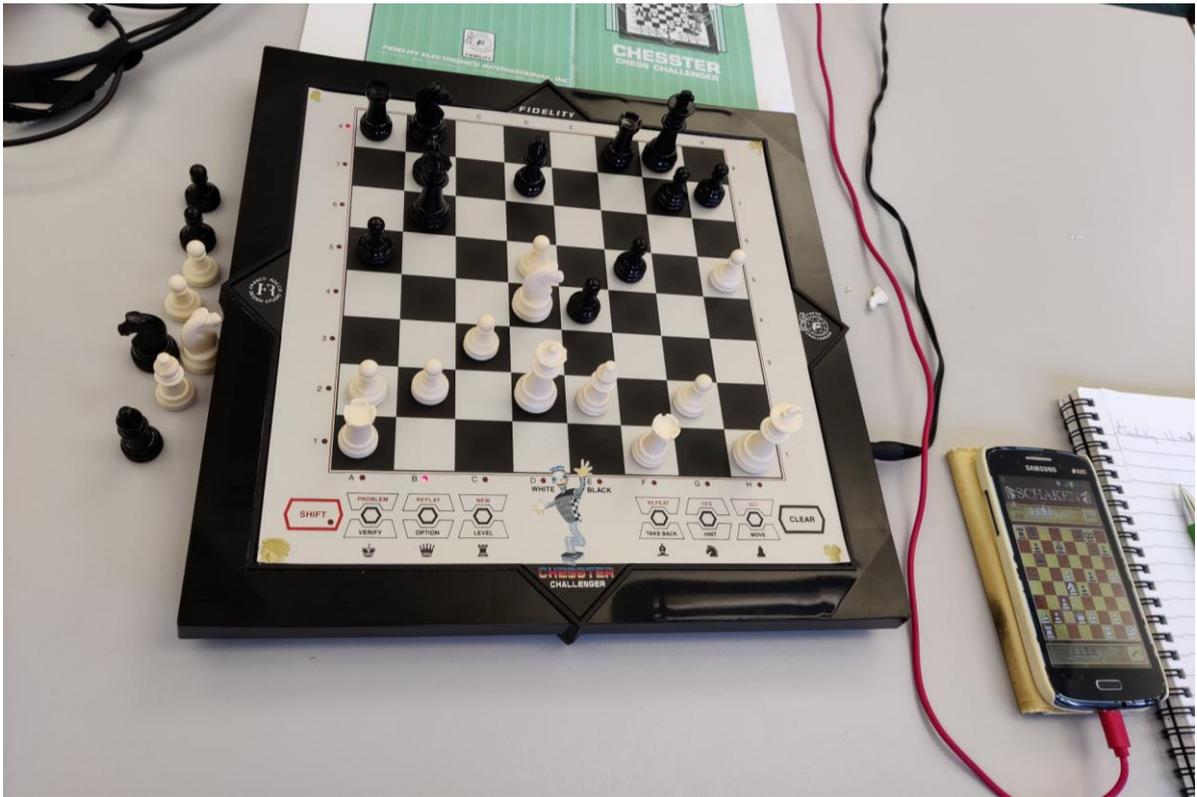
Also against Ralf-Henning Glomb with his Tasc R30 was a loss for Ruud.



**Heiko Berger's Conchess Glasgow S5 L16 finished in a well-deserved 3rd place.
Heiko has a beautiful website! For more information on this Conchess see:
<https://www.schachcomputer-online-museum.de/bildergalerie/conchess/conchess-programmodul-s5-5-5-mhz-princess-glasgow-1984/>**



**The Mephisto Super Mondial B remains a dangerous opponent.
It nevertheless finished in the middle of the field.**



Then Paul Wiselius' talking Fidelity Chesster Challenger. Didn't do so great, but as Paul pointed out, Chesster has a vocabulary of over 300 words and that makes it very pleasant to play chess with!



Normally this room holds the A-group, but for a change, this is where the B-group sits!



The Mephisto Rebel 5 MHz. finished in last place. A bit of a shame for Gernot Holm, but I'm sure he won't mind. He has been present in Kaufbeuren for almost 20 years so next year another chess computer?



From left to right: Gernot Holm (Mephisto Rebel 5,0), Dirk Heidtfeld (Novag Constellation Forte), Wolfgang Spiekermann (Saitek Turbo King II) and Paul Wiselius (Fidelity Chesster Challenger).



Wolfgang Spiekermann with his magnificent "Saitek" Turbo King II. How fine this chess computer still looks after all these years! The Schachcomputer.info website incorrectly lists the Turbo King II under the SciSys brand name! For Paul Wiselius, this must have been a "horizon effect", because he blindly took this as the only truth. In 1987, the company "SciSys" got the new brand name "Saitek". This firm did so because of the difficult to pronounce name of SciSys, an amalgamation of Scientific Systems.



Left: Wolfgang Spiekermann with the "Saitek" Turbo King II. He is always a very quiet presence, but don't challenge him to a solid game of chess, because even Hans van Mierlo found that out last year.



See all those little hands. It shows how our generation is committed to chess computers from the 1980s in particular! From left to right: Wolfgang Spiekermann (Saitek Turbo King II), Gernot Holm (Mephisto Rebell 5,0), Gerhard Vetter (Fidelity Prestige Challenger Budapest), and Paul Wiselius (Fidelity Chesster Challenger).



The Novag Constellation Forte B whose operator was Dirk Heidtfeld finished very surprisingly at the top. So a chess computer that can win from anyone in this class!



Left: Dirk Heidtfeld in battle with Heiko Berger. The chess game ended in a draw. As we know, Dirk Heidtfeld won the tournament (like last year) in the B-group.



**What a nice chess computer that Gerhard Vetter brought back!
A Fidelity Prestige with the Budapest programme from 1983.
It also looks like new. And then that very rare Fidelity Challenger Printer.**



On the left is Heiko Berger with the rare Conchess with which he hopes to win a chess game against Gerhard Vetter with his Fidelity Prestige Budapest. Erwin Biri looks on interestedly. Heiko has a wonderful website with very rare chess computers.

See: <https://www.schachcomputer-online-museum.de/>



On the left is Gernot Holm with his Mephisto Rebell 5.0 and next to him is Thomas Jäger with the Mephisto Super Mondial B who managed to win the game between them.



**Sitting on the right is Gerhard Vetter who crosses swords with Heiko Berger.
Gerhard came by car instead of train this year.
It could hardly be otherwise with such a big and heavy machine.**



**On the left is Wolfgang Spiekermann operating the Saitek Kasparov Turbo King II
against Paul Wiselius with his talking Fidelity Chesster Challenger.
Unfortunately for Paul, this mutual encounter was lost to him.**



**A few more chess games on the last day of this tournament.
Always exciting to see where you finish in the final tables.**



**Konrad, the son of Ralf-Henning Glomb passionately operates the Fidelity V11 72 MHz. against Rasmus Althoff with his original CT800.
Konrad managed to win this last match and finished in 2nd place.**



Never change a winning team! The new Mephisto Phoenix is truly an asset to the computer chess world. From left to right: Markus Pillen, Thomas Karkosch, Ruud Martin and Horst Kern with his wife Monika.



Hotel Am Kamin is located against the Austrian border. The staff also walk in traditional Austrian attire. And when you sit in this ski lodge, you automatically imagine yourself somewhere in the mountains of Austria!



To conclude on the Sunday before leaving for home, we watched Formula 1 where Max Verstappen became world champion for the 2nd time. Meanwhile, a few final games of chess were in progress.



Good thing Paul Wiselius also managed to take a few photos, otherwise I myself (right) would be nowhere to be seen on this photo report.



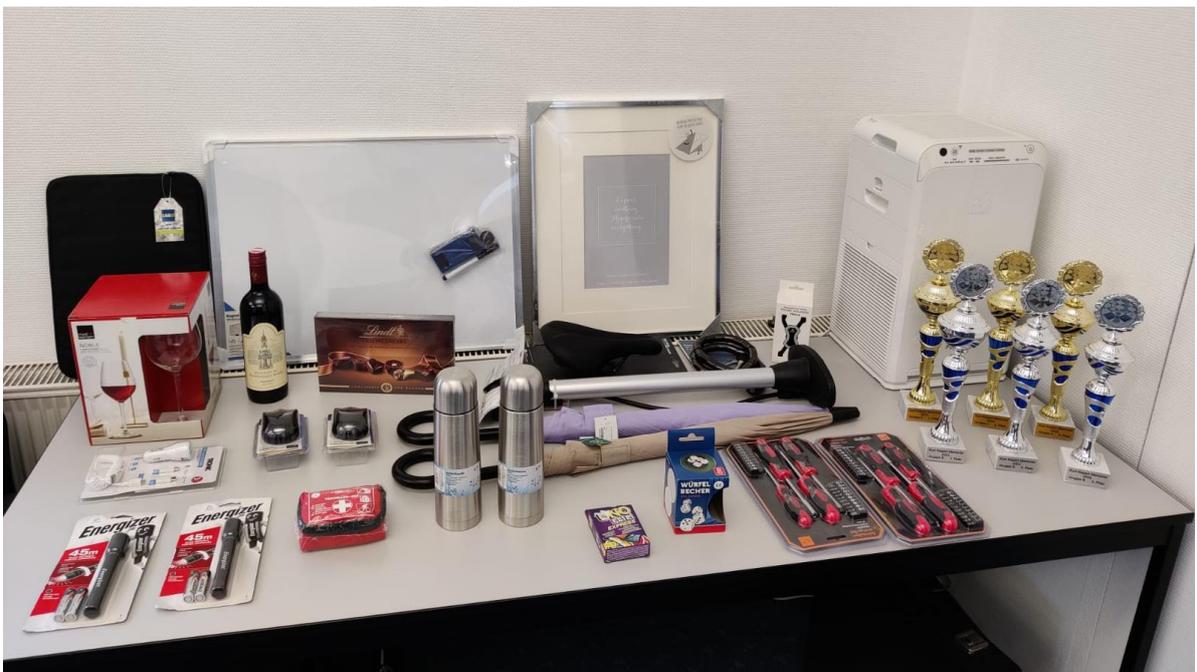
And then again the prize-giving ceremonies by tournament organiser Alwin Gruber. This is often done with some joking around and that's how it should be.



Paul Wiselius as tournament leader then already shared the results online with Schachcomputer.info and other websites.



Alwin Gruber, meanwhile, is an experienced speaker and knows how to keep all spectators' attention.



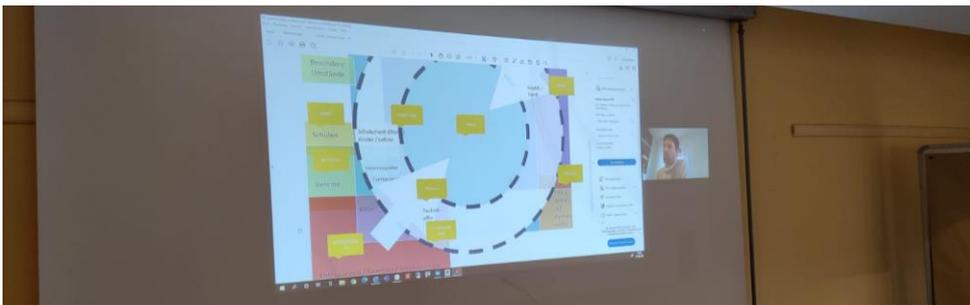
Alwin Gruber also knows how to keep coming up with new prizes and cups. Hats off to Alwin for pulling this off time and again!

Phoenix Development Meeting in Klingenberg

Since the Mephisto Phoenix can be ordered, I am now happy to show some pictures of how this chess computer came about. The photos were taken in Klingenberg on 11 February 2022 during an important discussion about the Millennium company's new super-powerful chess computer with both the latest chess programmes and as many classic emulations on board.



On the screen we see Thomas Karkosch. He was unable to attend due to corona. Through a live video link, he was still able to participate in this important meeting.



The endless discussions that went on all day were a real torture for all team members! I myself became too much and ended up going for a long walk in the beautiful mountainous surroundings of Klingenberg.



Sitting at the head of the table is Wolfgang Mueller. Like the other team members, he was an important member.

Mephisto Phoenix presentation in Kaufbeuren on 8 October 2022



Left: Thomas Karkosch during his presentation of the Mephisto Phoenix in Kaufbeuren. In the foreground, Thomas Jäger looks on interestedly.



Left on the office chair: Horst Kern is one of the team members who collaborated on this innovative high end chess computer.



Erwin Biri looks at this new gadget with admiration...



Mephisto Phoenix chess computer with tournament chessboard (55 cm) incl. piece recognition, LED move display and real wood pieces. The module contains 4 top engines as well as neural engine technologies and reaches up to 3400 Elo playing strength. 23 classic chess computer emulations from the 80s and 90s are also included.



You can see that a lot of attention has been paid to the packaging. It looks very elegant. The name "Phoenix" is written very large on the packaging. As everyone knows, CEO Ruud Martin of the Phoenix Chess Systems company is responsible for that. Let's hope that both parties, Millennium and Phoenix Chess Systems can continue to work together on future developments of new chess computers for a long time to come!



The operating module looks beautiful. The emulated Glasgow programme is highly sought after by collectors for its human playing style.



In the most deluxe version, i.e. with tournament board and incl. emulation package, this chess computer will cost € 1,999,--. In the pre-order you get a discount of € 200,--.



But the more compact chess board obviously takes up less space and can also be more easily carried around.



But the large and elegant chess pieces on the tournament board do not make a choice any easier.

See: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPv-7oV_ZL4&t=12s



Yes, pre-order now (with €200 discount) and in house before Christmas!



To be ordered at Phoenix Chess Systems (Ruud Martin):

<https://phoenixcs.nl/> & <https://phoenixcs.nl/products/>

To be ordered at Millennium: <https://computerchess.com/Mephisto-Phoenix-T-Schachcomputer-mit-55-cm-groesem-Turnierbrett/M924>

To be ordered at Niggemann: <https://www.schachversand.de/computer-und-dgt-bretter/tischgeraete-holz.html>